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Notes and Opinions.

THE cut upon the cover of this number is a reproduction of the head of Mary in Titian's famous picture of the Assumption now in



the Academy of Fine Arts, Venice. Mary is represented as rising from her coffin, now filled with flowers, away from the astonished apostles toward heaven. While Titian can hardly be called a deeply religious

painter in portraying the legend of the miraculous carrying of Mary to heaven at her death, he has produced a work not only of great power and movement but also of feeling. The face of Mary who now for the first time catches a glimpse of the glory awaiting her above, is full of the tenderest love and humility, and the intense upward glance of expectation and wonder is not to be easily forgotten.

FROM a paper by C. H. Levy, in the *Independent* of August 12, we learn that Max Nordau, the author of *Degeneration*, and Dr. Theodor Herzl, of Vienna have issued a call for an international congress of Jewish philanthropists, to be held in Basle, August 25-27. The purpose of this congress, as stated in the call is very varied, but fundamentally appears to be the demonstration of the practicability of "Zionism." The members of this movement are endeavoring to establish a Jewish state in Palestine, proposing that a joint stock company be formed to buy the entire country, in which the Jews should then be colonized.

It is doubtful whether such a movement will meet with much favor, in fact it is already condemned by the Executive Committee of the union of German Rabbis and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Nevertheless, the newspapers have recently announced the formation of the stock company, with a large capital. Recently, also, eighteen prominent Jews, among them Mr. Zangwill, the novelist, were sent to Palestine to report on the possibility of such a new state, and it is said that their opinion was strongly in favor of the movement, and one cause for the summoning of the congress. It will be interesting to follow the progress of this movement.